(b) and (c) Receipt and disposal of FDI proposals is an ongoing process. All FDI proposals which are not under automatic route, are generally disposed of within 30 days. It is not possible to make projections about future FDI proposals and names of industries to which foreign Investment is likely to be made.

**Corruption cases in STC**

†1853. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any information regarding certain cases of corruption in State Trading Corporation during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of each case;

(c) the action taken by Governemnt in each case with result thereof; and

(d) the number of accused persons punished and number of accused persons who are under trial?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Status of cases reported to the Department of Commerce during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement *(See* below). Majority of the cases are reflected in the enclosed statement have been closed by Central Bureau of Investigation/Enforcement Directorate. In respect of cases, which are still under investigation, it is difficult to infer the connivance of any official of STC till the investigations are complete.

**Statement**

| S.No. | Year | Subject | Action taken/Status of investigation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 1996-97 | Alleged lapses in the rice shipments from STC, Madras to Bangladesh | The case has been closed by CBI. |
| 2. | 1996-97 | Export of plastic garbage bages to M/s. Internationl Leather Co., Dubai. | The Case has been closed by CBI. |
| 3. | 1996-97 | All ged FERA violations by STC and ZEE TV | Ministry of Finance directed Enforcement Directorate (ED) |

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

| S.No. | Year | Subject | Action taken/Status of investigation |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | to investigate the matter. Pending their response, STC referred the matter to CBI on 5.12.1996 to pin-point the criminal liability or otherwise of the concerned STC officials. In response, CBI advised STC to pursue the matter with ED. Ed intimated in July, 1998 that in the light of RBI's permission, there is no FERA violation on the part of Zee TV and STC. Further information/documents called for by ED have since been provided to them by STC. |
| 4. | 1996-97 | Companion free travel facilities by certain officers of STC | In the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel & Training on 5.3.1997 that the Department is permitted to accept free compaion tickets or variations thereof provided that such benefits are restricted to travel by National Carrier. |
| 5. | 1996-97 | Import fo sugar in 1994, extension of huge financial assistance to M/s. Kesar Enterprises, Bombay. | The case has been closed by CBI. |
| 6. | 1996-97 | Urea Imports by STC | The case has been closed by CBI. |
| 7. | 1996-97 | Import of sugar by STC through M/s. Andre & CIE, Switzerland. | Under investigation by CBI. |

| S.No. | Year | Subject | Action taken/Status of investigation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8.. | 1997-98 | Corrupt practice in soyabean and oil extraction operation of STC | CAG probe ordered into STC's Transaction with M/s. Albert & Co. ED (Vigilance) STC also advised to conduct preliminary inquiry. Inquiry report has been received in the Department of commerce and is under examination. |
| 9. | 1997-98 | STC's financing an Indian Company for importing edible oil | After investigation, closure report has been received which has been sreferred to Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for concurrence/advice. Final view will be taken after receipt of CVC's advice. |
| | | *0* | |
| 10. | 1998-99 | Import of Austrialian wheat | CBI registered a Preliminary Engquiry in August, 1998 against unnamed officials of Cabinet Secretariat, Department of Food, STC and FCI and others. The matter is under investigation. |

**Setting up of free trade zone between India and Singapore**

1854. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Singapore are to set up free trade zone;

(b) if so, the initiatives taken in this regard, so far; and

(c) other measures taken for economic liberalisaiton programme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.